



Overview of Developments in The Prevention of Elder Abuse in Donegal

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18th June 2010

- My Title
- 27 Caseworkers – 4 Vacancies
- Donegal 4.5 wte & 2 Social Workers in Primary Care
- Role of Senior Caseworker – Referrals/Keyworker/co-worker/Stats/Awareness/Training
- No. of Referrals nationally. 07=927, 08=1840, 09=1870
- Donegal 2009 – 50 new + 3
- Still under reporting – 3% - 5% over 65 years = 18000 in 2006 Census in Donegal = 500-1000



Reasons for under reporting

- Do not upset
- Don't know what to do
- Failure to recognise
- New DVD



- Abuse regularly caused by
 - Ignorance
 - Lack of consideration
 - Selfishness
 - Thoughtlessness
 - Carer Stress



- Protecting Our Future 2002/reviewed 2009/10
- International Research/National Centre for the Protection of Older People
 - Prevalence study



Developments To Date

- Say No to Ageism 24 – 30th May 2010
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 15th June
- International linkages with the Weinburg Centre in New York
- H.I.Q.A – Standards / Inspections
- Here in Donegal – The First Policy on Protecting Vulnerable Adults in Ireland



Review of Protecting Our Future

- Progress significant
 - Structures Established
 - Awareness raising initiatives
 - Education/Training of Professionals
 - Comprehensive Database
 - Foundations of Advocacy Support
 - HIQA Standards
 - Health Act 2007 – Protecting People who report in good faith



Areas in need of Improvement

- Greater need for Cross Agency Work
- Protocols with Gardai
- Need to alleviate Carer stress? Assessment of Carers suitability – Carers Allowance
- Need for greater collaboration with Financial Institutions - ? System triggers
- Stricter monitoring of “Agents of Pension”
- Need of greater training/support protocols for professionals in dealing with self neglect



Database Information - 2009

- 3rd year reporting
- Refinement of data re: confirmed non abuse
- 1870 referrals in 2009 –
 - 435 Self Neglect
 - Of the remaining 1435
 - Psychological 34%
 - Financial 22%
 - Neglect 20%
 - Physical 14%



Database 2009 contd....

Generally 21% cases substantiated
32% confirmed non-abuse
40% inconclusive

- Physical Abuse most likely to be substantiated
- Financial Abuse most likely to be inconclusive + growing concern



Database 2009 contd....

- Adult Children most likely to be abusers of all types
- Carers a significant Group in terms of perpetrators of financial Abuse
- More Females than Males referred
- 45% of referrals over 80 years
- PHN's main source of referrals
- 83% of referrals live at home
- Consistent with 2008 findings: the predominant alleged perpetrators are
 - Son/Daughter 46%
 - Other Relative 20%
 - Partner/Spouse 18%



Where are we now?

- Progress to date but a lot to do
- Policy on Elder Abuse in CH's / Training HH's
- Elder Abuse Implementation Forum crucial
- Excellent multidisciplinary/inter agency working in Donegal
- Good support/supervision/training arrangements



Finally

- The Balancing Act
Rewarding / Challenging /Frustrating
Domestic Violence / Bullying / Corporal
Punishment
Self Determination – Protection – Risk –
Least Restrictive – Protection from the
Law


